

opc Bulletin

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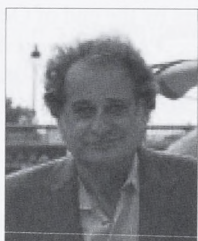
Journalist "Saves the World" in New Book

OPC EVENT PREVIEW / OCT. 10

by Sonya K. Fry

The subtitle to **Mort Rosenblum's** book says it all: *How America's Blindness to the Rest of the World Threatens Our Survival*.

Rosenblum, an OPC member, was an AP foreign correspondent for forty years. As an American living (in Paris and Provence) and working abroad, he brings a unique perspective on how America is viewed in the world and how the American media increasingly does not cover this world. The combination of an uneducated populous and a press that does not report international news leads to the destruction of democracy.

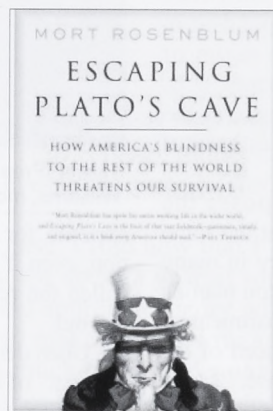


Mort Rosenblum

The book begins "Plato...believed most of his fellow humans were blind to reality. He imagined prisoners in a cave who could see events outside only as fire-light flickering on a wall. These shadows, cropped by the cave's opening, were distorted in size, their details blurred. They loomed suddenly and then vanished. Twenty-three centuries later, these images appear on backlit screens with words like SONY or DELL stamped beneath them. Otherwise, Plato's simile still seems squarely on the mark."

Rosenblum does not live in a the romantic past of print media. He understands that the Internet is a terrific delivery system, but without professional journalists reporting from locations around the world, it is hollow. The other part of the equation, according to Rosenblum, is a responsive public.

Without both a free and strong press and an educated public, America is becoming unglued. With all its economic might and military strength, the United States is losing respect. Rosenblum argues that America's ignorance of what's really happening in the world, caused in part by the media and our inward-looking politics and blindness to reality is killing us. "Ignorance, whether in Arabia or



America, is a weapon of mass destruction."

Jim Hoge, editor of Foreign Affairs writes "A great foreign correspondent draws on forty years of travels and experiences to paint a vivid picture of how America is falling short of its highest values and crippling its global leadership."

Escaping Plato's Cave is also edited by OPC

member **Phil Revzin**, formerly of *The Wall Street Journal*, and now a senior editor at St. Martin's Press, making this a complete OPC production.

Join us for the launch of this important book *Escaping Plato's Cave* on Wednesday, October 10 at 5:30 p.m. at Club Quarters in New York. Book will be for sale and signing.

Taiwan President Outlines His Country's Terms

OPC EVENT RECAP

A defiant Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian sent a signal to the world on September 14 that the Taiwanese will not accept what they regard as a combined effort by mainland China and the United States to pressure the island state into a deeper political embrace with the Communist mainland.

Chen decried efforts by Beijing and its allies around the world to turn Taiwan into an "invisible nation," a statement that the mainland Chinese would sharply dispute because they regard Taiwan as a renegade province belonging to them.

Chen said his government would press efforts to join the U.N. as "Taiwan," rather than the "Republic of China," which is significant diplomatically because that name would not pre-suppose the island is a sovereign state. And if

the Bush Administration persists in stonewalling Taiwan, Chen said he would support a referendum in March for Taiwanese to vote on whether they want to join the U.N. The State Department has voiced opposition to such a move. "They're silencing the 23 million people of Taiwan," an obviously frustrated Chen said. "China holds a saber choking our throats," he added. "Do you want us to breathe or are we just waiting to die?"

Chen, who is barred from setting foot in the United States other than for 15-minute transit stops, such as one he had in Anchorage, Alaska, addressed a panel and press conference organized by the OPC and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in New York. It was entitled a "face to face" session because, with thanks to satellite television technology, Chen was able to engage with a panel of

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Taiwan President Defines His Country's Terms

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journalists and diplomats at the Millennium U.N. Hotel in New York. The event was moderated by Bill Holstein, former Asian correspondent and now head of the OPC Foundation.

Journalists on the panel included Ian Williams, past president of the U.N. Correspondents Association and a correspondent for the *Guardian*; and Bruce Dunning, a CBS News correspondent in Asia for 30 years. From the realm of diplomacy, John Bolton, former U.S. Ambassador to the U.N., took part, as did Therese Shaheen, who served as head of the Taiwan Institute.

Asked why the U.S. opposes the March referendum in Taiwan at the same time that it supports democracy in many other regions of the world, Bolton blamed a "cultural problem at the Department of State," which he said is convinced of the inevitability of Taiwan's collapse. "Many [at the State Department] are more eager to recognize the dictatorship in North Korea rather than a democracy in Taiwan," he said.

Chen is entering his eighth and final year as president, much as President Bush is. Americans are clearly preoccupied with Iraq and their declared "war on terror," but they may have to devote more time and resources to head off new frictions between Taiwan and China. Domestic politics inside Taiwan seem to suggest an



Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian joined via satellite with from left, Bruce Dunning, Ian Williams, moderator Bill Holstein, Therese Shaheen, and John Bolton.

appetite for more international recognition, even if that angers China, which has called the referendum plan a "secessionist" bid.

Chen denied Taiwan is trying to "rock the boat" of relative stability across the so-called Taiwan Straits, arguing that China is attempting to alter the balance of power. He said that since taking office, China has increased the number of missiles targeted on Taiwan from 200 to 988 and has pursued a military build-up aimed at conquering Taiwan by 2010. "We're just trying to defend ourselves and maintain the status quo," Chen said. "It is China that is trying to change the status quo."

Among other signals that Taiwan is looking for from the United States is a

decision by the Bush Administration to put a price on a shipment of F-15 jet fighters by the end of October.

Panelists asked Chen if two factors would not discourage military action—one is the fact that China is hosting the 2008 Olympics and the other is the proliferation of trade and investment ties among China, Taiwan and the U.S. More than one million Taiwanese currently work on the mainland, for example.

The event received extensive coverage in the media around the world. The Chinese government attempted to discourage Ian Williams from participating. He received a telephone call from a Chinese diplomat expressing "extreme displeasure."

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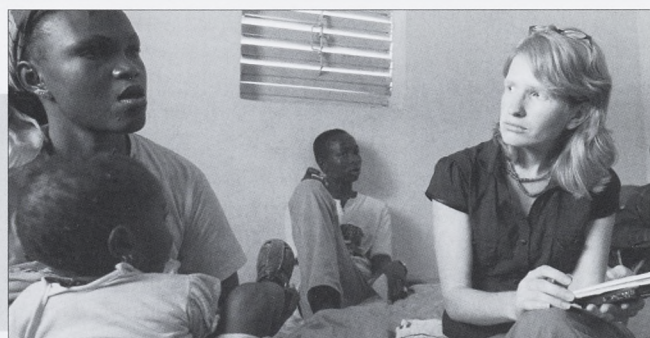
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Q&A With Heidi Vogt

Heidi Vogt is a reporter for the Associated Press. She has been reporting from West Africa since March 2006. *OPC Bulletin* editor **Aimee Rinehart** spoke with her recently via e-mail about her reporting career.



OPC: *Datelines for the past few months on articles you've filed include Cameroon and a fishing town in Senegal. What is your coverage area?*

VOGT: The AP has three reporters in our West Africa bureau, which covers more than 20 countries ranging from Mauritania to Congo.

OPC: *What are the challenges, if any, to a coverage area this size?*

VOGT: It's nearly impossible to have in-depth knowledge of so many countries, and I often feel terribly unprepared when I'm heading off on a spot assignment to a country I haven't been following closely. When martial law was declared in Guinea earlier this year, my editors decided we should send someone at 10 in the evening and I was on a plane the next morning. I grabbed whatever background materials I could find quickly and took some feverish notes on the plane, but it still took a couple of days on the ground before I felt at all ready to write authoritatively about the issues facing the country.

Obviously, I'd prefer to walk off the plane with all the background firmly in my head.

OPC: *What is your beat?*

VOGT: One of the great things about working over such a wide coverage area is that I'm not limited to any one beat. Sometimes I travel to a country that the AP hasn't sent a reporter to in years, and then I'm just looking for whatever interesting stories I can find.

I find that my previous experience as a business writer helps me "see" those stories when I travel. And a colleague pointed out to me recently that I keep happening on stories about natural resource issues — a long-standing interest of mine. But some of my favorite stories have been ones that get me into new territory: trying to understand the tumultuous push toward democratic government in Congo while covering elections there, or getting to know Senegal's rich literary culture for a feature on the country's first president, a renowned poet.

OPC: *Much of what you write about is radically different from what you've covered when you were report-*

ing in the United States, not just the beat, but the concerns and issues faced by people in West Africa. Does this impede your ability to tell the story?

VOGT: Actually, I think switching to a post with a drastically different beat can help a journalist's ability to tell the stories there, rather than the other way around. Fresh eyes mean you see stories everywhere!

In my case, I find now that I've been reporting in West Africa for about a year, it sometimes gets hard to step back and approach a story with the broad perspective that will make it click with an American audience. I have a much better understanding of African politics and issues than when I started out, but I have to keep reminding myself that I'm writing for people who often haven't heard of countries like Guinea-Bissau, much less its economic woes.

OPC: *There were only a few months between learning you had the assignment and then moving. How did you prepare yourself as a journalist for this assignment?*

VOGT: I read the Africa wires as much as possible, and started calling around to academics or policy wonks in the U.S. with Africa expertise. As you might expect, I found when I arrived that I still knew very little about West Africa, but it helped to start talking to people in the U.S. beforehand.

OPC: *How did you prepare yourself personally?*

VOGT: I went shopping. I bought a two-gig memory card for my digital camera and spent \$300 on toiletries at Rite-Aid. One of the things that was important to me in moving abroad was not to lose contact with friends and family back in the States, so I recruited everyone I could to Skype. I also signed up for a U.S. phone number with the service so that my tech-phobic friends could also call me.

OPC: *If you could cover anything else, or live anywhere else in the next two years, what or where would it be?*

VOGT: There are so many options. One of the reasons I've ended up where I have is that I'm fascinated by the variety of cultures in the world. I'd love to do a tour just about anywhere in Asia or the Middle East. Either would be a totally new experience.



PEOPLE...with Al Kaff

GORDON CURRIE/BILL SHINN

GLOBAL: AP has transferred OPC member **Elena Becatoros** from London to Athens, where she is chief of Southeastern European news directing coverage in Greece, Cyprus, Bulgaria Macedonia and Albania. After working on AP's international desk in New York, **Becatoros** was sent to London in 2004, where she was born, to help establish a European-African regional editing hub.



Other AP correspondents on the move: **Doug Birch** from New York to Moscow. **Beth Duff-Brown** from Toronto to Bangkok. **Enric Marti** from Jerusalem to Mexico City. **Brian Murphy** from Athens to Baghdad. **Sam Dolnick** from New York to New Delhi. **Anita Chang** from New York to Beijing. **Lauren Frayer** from Cairo to Baghdad. **Edward Harris** from New York to Lagos. **Maria Sanminiatielli** from Rome to New York.

BEIJING: Tsinghua University, one of China's most prestigious universities, launched a global business journalism program in September to train Chinese students in business, economic and financial reporting. The first such program in China is run by the university and the U.S.-based International Center for Journalists. **Joyce Barnathan**, the Center's president, said, "Given the role China now plays in the world economy, it is so vital that Chinese journalists have the skills they need to cover this rapidly developing business landscape." Founding sponsors of the program are Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, Merrill Lynch, the Knight Foundation and Bloomberg.

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Zhao Yan, 45, a Chinese research assistant in *The New York Times* Beijing bureau, was released from

CASABLANCA: Yes, there really is a Rick's Café in Casablanca. Rick's Café in the 1942 movie "Casablanca" was built on a set in Burbank, California. Now a Rick's Café has opened in Casablanca.

"We took the movie and added to it," explained Kathy Kriger, part owner of Casablanca's Rick's Café. Michael Mackie, a member of the Foreign Correspondents' Club in Hong Kong, stumbled on to the new Rick's Café and wrote about it in the Club's magazine: "It does feel like the film; the waiters wear the same uniform – a tasseled fez, white shirt and black trousers. The décor is all whitewashed walls and rather graceful Moorish arches."



prison in September after serving a three-year sentence on a fraud conviction. State security agents arrested him in September 2004 and charged him with disclosing state secrets to *The Times*. The accusation was linked to an exclusive *Times* article about the inner workings of China's top leaders. *The Times* denied that Zhao had ever disclosed any state secrets. That charge later was dropped, and he was convicted of defrauding an official of \$2,500. He denied the charge. Human rights and journalism groups protested his arrest, and President Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice lobbied on his behalf with Chinese President Hu Jintao. More than 80 Chinese journalists and bloggers are being detained in China, Reporters Without Borders reported.

DALLAS, Texas: OPC member **Pat Killen**, a correspondent in Asia for more than 30 years, made a return visit to Tokyo this summer, and he sent "People" this report on his old hangout, the Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan (FCCJ): The FCCJ bar was quiet because many members take vacations in August. There was definitely a somber mood because of

the recent deaths of three prominent and long-time members: former club presidents **Jack Russell** and **Naoaki Usui** and former treasurer **Richard Hanson**. The club has a new executive chef, Adam Wood, an Australian who formerly served as executive chef of the five-star Swissotel in Osaka. The club now features breakfast and a revamped lunch menu. I am happy to report the club's vichyssoise remains a summer favorite. The bar has been expanded, and the club now boasts its first interview room, something one member noted was 50 years overdue.

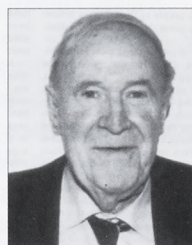
HONG KONG: The Foreign Correspondents' Club of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Journalists Association and Amnesty International sponsor annual Human Rights Press Awards for newspaper, magazine, radio and TV reporting on human rights in Asia. The 2006 awards were announced this spring. Foreign correspondents winners: **Jason Gutierrez** and **Sardar Ahmad**, Agence France-Presse; **Amelia Gentleman**, *International Herald Tribune*; **Mei Fong**, **Geoffrey Fowler**, **Jason Dean** and **Danny Gittings**, *Wall Street Journal Asia*; **Hannah Beech** (daughter of the late **Keyes Beech**, a

longtime *Chicago Daily News* correspondent in Asia), **Bill Powell**, **Thomas Van Houtryve** and **Nelson Ching**, *Time Asia*; **Luis Ramirez**, Voice of America; **Guy DeLauney** and **Andrew Harding**, BBC; **Vincent Yu**, AP; **Hugo Restall**, **Benjamin Robertson**, **William MacNamara**, **David Bandurski**, **Lin Hui**, **Jerome Cohen** and **Zama Colursen-Neff**, *Far Eastern Economic Review*; **Joe Kainz**, Star TV; and **Ding Xiao** and **James Zhu**, Radio Free Asia.



David Chipp was posted to Beijing in 1956, the first Reuters correspondent to be based in China since the communists came to power in 1949 and at that time the only resident Western correspondent in China. During a recent visit to Hong Kong, Chipp said access to Chinese leaders seemed to be easier in his time than

now and more informal. "At receptions, Chou En-lai was happy to talk about generalities in English, which he spoke excellently," Chipp recalled. "But when I asked formal questions he would revert to an interpreter." At a performance of *Romeo and Juliet* in Chinese, "Chou said it was a bad translation, but I might be interested to know that Juliet was a member of the National People's Congress then meeting in Peking." The next day, Chou brought Tien Hua, who played Juliet, to the press room so Chipp could interview her.



David Chipp

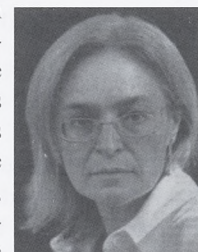


The Italian government has awarded **Angelo Paratico**, Hong Kong cor-

respondent of the Rome newspaper *Secolo d'Italia*, the Stella Della Solidarieta Italiana [Star of the Italian Solidarity]. Created after the second World War, the award is given to foreigners and Italians living overseas who help rebuild the image and standing of Italy.

The award enables him to put "Cavaliere" in front of his name. But he said, "There have been so many abuses of that title that if you use it you will be immediately classified as an olde 'fart' and a 'pompous ass.'" Paratico wrote the novel *gli Assassini del Karma* [*The Karma Killers*] that is set in Hong Kong and its Foreign Correspondents' Club before the colony's 1997 return to China and includes the legend that Jesus went to India and Tibet during His 18-year absence from the Gospels. The novel refers by name to several distinguished members of the FCC.

MOSCOW: Ten suspects have been arrested in last year's assassination of investigative reporter and Kremlin critic **Anna Politkovskaya**. General Yuri Chaika, the Russian Prosecutor told an August news conference that the murder plot was hatched overseas "to destabilize the situation in Russia, discredit the authorities and change the constitutional situation."



Anna Politkovskaya

But Politkovskaya's colleagues gave a different explanation as to why she was murdered.

They said "she was killed in retaliation for her work or to prevent additional articles from being published," **C. J. Chivers** of *The New York Times* wrote.

"Ms. Politkovskaya had specialized in human rights issues and in uncovering crimes related to the war in Chechnya, a theme that few Russian journalists still pursue."

The prosecutor said the arrested persons, whom he did not identify by name, included a Chechen crime boss and officers in Russia's police and intelligence services.

EDINBURGH: Scottish-born **Harry Benson**, a New York photographer, visited the Scottish Parliament in August for the hanging of his portrait photographs of Sir David Steel and the Right Honorable George Reid, the Parliament's first two presiding officers.

Benson, 78, an OPC member, also participated in the Parliament's Festival of Politics with a discussion titled "Life of the Lens – The Changing Face of Photojournalism" from the mid-20th Century to the present and beyond, and some of his photographs were put on display. Harry covered the Beatles' first trip to the United States in 1964, the assassinations of Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King, the fall of the Berlin Wall and other news events while making photographs of famous people including Winston Churchill, Margaret Thatcher and every U.S. president since Dwight Eisenhower.



Harry Benson, center, in the Scottish Parliament and his photo of the Beatles in a pillow fight on display.

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(Continued From Page 5)

NEW DELHI: Former UPI correspondent in New Delhi, Hong Kong and Dallas, **Harihar Krishnan**, returned earlier this year to India to be near his parents. While in Delhi, he continued filing news to UPI's NewsTrack desk in Washington. Hari plans to return to the United States this autumn.

NEW YORK: **Dan Rather** filed a \$70 million damages suit against CBS and three of its executives in September. He charged that his contract was violated by giving him insufficient airtime on "60 Minutes" after he narrated an unsubstantiated report questioning President Bush's Vietnam-era National Guard service.

After the report was broadcast on "60 Minutes," Rather was forced to step down as CBS News anchor.

The report claimed that high-level political influence kept Bush out of combat. Rather, 75, and an OPC member, claimed to *The New York Times* that he has learned that a private investigator hired by CBS after the report was broadcast turned up evidence that might exonerate him, at least in part.

The deadline to submit entries to the U.N. Correspondents Association is approaching. The UNCA invites media worldwide to submit entries for its Twelfth Annual Awards for the best written and electronic media coverage of the United Nations, its agencies and field operations.

The UNCA Awards include the \$10,000 Elizabeth Neuffer Memorial Prize for written media (including online media), the \$10,000 Ricardo Ortega Memorial Prize for broadcast journalism, and the \$10,000 United Nations Foundation prize for any entry in any medium that best covers the humanitarian and development aspects of the U.N. and its agencies.

Secretary General Ban Ki Moon will present the prizes at the UNCA Awards Dinner at U.N. Headquarters in New York, December 7s. Deadline is October 27. The awards are open to all journalists anywhere in the world.

Check www.UNCA.com for details, results and lists of previous winners.

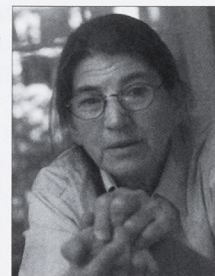
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Alexis Debat, a former consultant to ABC News has denied charges that he fabricated interviews with American political figures for the French magazine *Politique Internationale*.

The French Web site Rue89.com first reported suspicions that Debat's interview with Senator Barack Obama was fake. Interviews Debat supplied to the French magazine with former President Bill Clinton, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and New York Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg also were challenged. All of those subjects said they never met with Debat. ABC News earlier had fired Debat for falsely claiming he held a doctorate. He claimed that the Ph.D issue arose from a misunderstanding with the Sorbonne.

◆
OKLAHOMA CITY: **Lolita (Lolly) Keener Thetford**, who started her reporting career on *The Brazil Herald* in Rio de Janeiro before she joined *The Daily Oklahoman* in Oklahoma City, entered a rehabilitation center in September for exercise and therapy after she suffered back and head injuries in an automobile accident. When she drove out of a fast food restaurant with the little girl she has tutored in reading for several years, Lolly's car was struck by an oncoming vehicle. The girl, whom Lolly had taken out to eat on her birthday, was not hurt. Born in Brazil and now retired, Lolly, 82, is the daughter of the late **U. Grant Keener**, a longtime United Press executive in South America. She is the widow of **Francis Thetford**, a *Daily Oklahoman* editor and columnist.

PARIS: Agence France-Presse is awarding an annual traveling scholarship in memory of Kate Webb, who for 16 years was an AFP correspondent in several Asian nations after reporting from the Vietnam War for UPI. The scholarship will pay up to 5,000 Euros to a wire service journalist to finance a reporting trip that the applicant otherwise might not be able to afford. The winning story, pho-

tographs or video will be displayed on the AFP Foundation's Website. The competition is open to correspondents who work in Asia or the Pacific, excluding Australia, New Zealand and the Middle East. Applications for this year's award closed November 1. In future years, the deadline will be February 1, and the awards will be announced on March 24, Webb's birthday. Webb, 64, died of cancer May 13 in a Sydney hospital. The scholarship announcement said, "She was devoted to the local staff in the bureaus where she worked and she inspired their loyalty and affection."



Kate Webb

PRINCETON, New Jersey: OPC member **Maria Ferris** believes she dreams of events that later actually occur, and she has written about her psychic ability in *Finding My Life through Poems, Proverbs and Dreams*. Events that she said she dreamed about before they happened include the Pacific tsunami, the school house where Amish children were killed and the mountains where Al-Qaueda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri might be hiding, inspiring her to send a tip to the FBI. "Since the book was published in February 2007, five events have happened which were dreams in this book," Ferris, a former Catholic school teacher, wrote in a note to the "People" columnist.



Maria Ferris

SHANGHAI: **Vicki Graham**, who with **John Roderick** opened AP's Beijing bureau in 1979 after the United States and Communist China established diplomatic relations, now

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is features and opinion copy editor at the English-language *Shanghai Daily*. After her tour in China, 1979 to 1984, Vicki was AP bureau chief in New Delhi for three and a half years and UN bureau chief for about seven years. She left AP in 1994 and then served with the United Nations in Africa and Bosnia and worked for *Asia Times Online* in Thailand. UPI's Beijing bureau was opened in 1979 by Tokyo-based **Bob Crabbe** and feature writer **Aline Mosby**, who died several years ago.

TEHERAN: **Parnaz Azima**, an Iranian-American journalist, was given permission to leave Iran in September after she had been barred for seven months from leaving the country. She worked for the U.S.-financed Radio Farda. Two days before Azima's release, Haleh Esfandiari, an American-Iranian scholar and director of the Middle East Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, was allowed to leave Iran after being detained since May while visiting her ailing mother. Both Azima and Esfandiari had been charged with security-related violations.

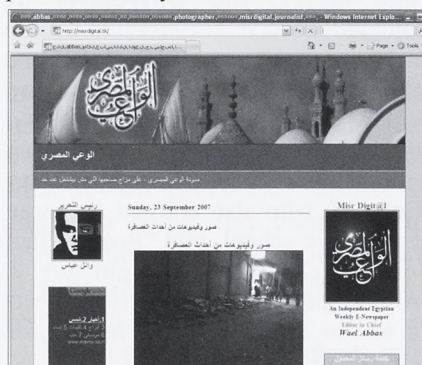
WASHINGTON: **Andrew L. Lluberes**, an OPC member since 1991 and a former editor and correspondent with Reuters and UPI, has been appointed director of communications for intelligence and analysis at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. He moved to his new post from the public affairs office at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Twelve U.S. editors will spend 11 days in November in South Korea on International Reporting Project fellowships sponsored by the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University. They will meet with Korean leaders in politics, business, academics, religion, media, medicine and health, technology, arts and culture. The editors are Rob Davila, *The Seattle Times*; Will Englund, *The Baltimore Sun*; Paul Feldman, *The Los*

Angeles Times; Morgan Holm, Oregon Public Broadcasting; Ray Locker, *USA Today*; Mark Melnicoe, *Sacramento Bee*; Michael Mosettig, News Hour with Jim Lehrer; Lisa Mullins, Boston, PRI/BBC/WGBH; Patrick Pexton, *The National Journal*, Washington, DC; Madhulika Sikka, NPR's "Morning Edition;" Randall Smith, *The Kansas City Star*; and Elizabeth Sullivan, *The Cleveland Plain Dealer*.

OPC member **John Schidlovsky**, who directs the program, said, "We're delighted to have such a great group going to the Korean peninsula at a time of possibly historic developments there." The Korea trip is the eighth since the international program began in 2000.

For raising the standards of media excellence in their countries, **Wael Abbas** of Egypt and **May Thingyan Hein** of Burma have been selected for this year's Knight International Journalism Awards. Abbas, 32, the first blogger to win the award, broke stories generally avoided by local media such as protests, corruption and police brutality.



Screenshot of the blog Misr Digital.

He has been arrested, interrogated and beaten. "The bloggers in Egypt are the last independent voice," he said. "If we are silenced, no protests will be heard in Egypt." His blog is *Misr Digital* on the Web at <http://misrdigital.tk> (Egyptian Awareness).

Hein, 33, covers controversial topics including corruption, HIV/AIDS and poverty. Her coverage of the spread of bird flu in Burma forced officials to acknowledge the epidemic.

She's a freelance journalist for several publications in a country

where journalists must submit their stories in advance to officials.

Abbas and Hein along with OPC member **Tom Brokaw**, the former NBC News anchorman and managing editor of the program *NBC Nightly News with Tom Brokaw*, will be honored at the International Center for Journalists award dinner November 13 in Washington D.C. The dinner also will feature Keynote Speaker **Bob Woodruff** and Master of Ceremonies George Stephanopoulos.

PEOPLE REMEMBERED

Morris W. Rosenberg, 87, a veteran AP foreign correspondent, died of prostate cancer September 15 at his home in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. In 1950 after World War II service in North Africa and Europe, Rosenberg reorganized an English-language publication in Caracas, Venezuela into a daily newspaper and became its editor-in-chief while serving as an AP correspondent. He moved to New York in 1958, directed a program at the Institute of International Education and then joined AP as World Services news editor. He later was AP bureau chief in Mexico City and Paris and chief of world services in Washington, D.C. He retired from AP in 1988 and then served as a media consultant to news agencies and journalistic groups in newly-liberated nations of Eastern Europe and Central America. The French government named him a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor.

In the 1950s both Communist China and the United States barred American correspondents from going to China. So in 1956, the AP hired **David Lancashire**, a Canadian, to cover Mao Zedong's China. Lancashire spent six weeks traveling more than 5,000 miles as the first North American to report from China since the communists took power in 1949. In a dispatch filed from Hong Kong after leaving the mainland, Lancashire wrote that China's goal was to equal the industrial power of the United States by the turn of the

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millennium. During the next 20 years, he reported for AP from trouble spots in Asia and the Middle East, covering communist insurgency in Laos, a Kurdish revolt in Iraq, the 1973 Mideast war and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Lancashire left the AP in 1976 and joined the Toronto *Globe and Mail* as a feature writer and editor. In an August story, he described his 1962 trip to Yemen where he covered a revolution that ended 1,100 years of monarchy. Lancashire, 76, died September 10 of a heart attack in Toronto.

Fred Fredricks, 81, a member of the Foreign Correspondents' Club (FCC) of Hong Kong during his 37 years in Hong Kong, died in his native Oklahoma March 23.

A lawyer and accountant, he prepared tax returns for scores of correspondents based in Hong Kong. Fredricks worked in Okinawa from 1959 to 1970 and then moved to Hong Kong. *The Correspondent*, the FCC's monthly magazine, described him as "a regular presence in the [Club's] Main Bar, renowned for his quick smile, easy laugh and terrible jokes."

Before moving overseas, Fred worked for the U.S. Justice Department and "became the first lawyer to successfully sue the U.S. government for treaty violations against Native American tribes," the FCC magazine wrote.

Anthony Day, 74, who reported from the Vietnam War for the *Philadelphia Evening Journal* before he became editorial page editor of *The Los Angeles Times*, died September 2 in a Santa Fe, New Mexico hospice of complications from emphysema. In the 1960s, Day reported for the Philadelphia paper from Vietnam, South America and Washington. He joined the *LA Times* in 1969 and served as editorial page editor from 1971 to 1989. Under Day's direction, the paper broke from its support of the Vietnam War, crusaded against government curbs on press freedom and won a 1975 Pulitzer Prize for editorials on government secrecy and judicial censorship.

Edward G. Seidensticker, 86, an eminent translator into English of ancient and modern Japanese authors and a longtime commentator for American newspapers on Japanese literature, died August 26, in a Tokyo hospital of complications from a head injury sustained several months earlier. He was widely known for his 1976 translation of *The Tale of Genji*, the 11th century epic of love and intrigue in Japan's Imperial Court.

He translated 20th Century novelists Yukio Mishima (*The Decay of the Angel*), Junichiro Tanizaki (*The Makioka Sisters* and *Some Prefer Nettles*) and Yasunari Kawabata (*Snow Country* and *Thousand Cranes*). His own books include two histories of Tokyo, *Low City*, *High City* and *Tokyo Rising*. Seidensticker studied Japanese at the U.S. Navy's Japanese Language School, established shortly after Pearl Harbor at his alma mater, the University of Colorado.

He was a language officer with the U.S. Marines in the Pacific during World War II, going ashore at Iwo Jima, he later recalled, "loaded down with dictionaries." OPC member **John Rich**, 90, who also learned Japanese at the Navy school, told "People" that Seidensticker was "a bright guy, a brilliant guy." Seidensticker was elected to Phi Beta Kappa in his senior year at Colorado.

After the war, Seidensticker taught at Stanford, the University of Michigan and Columbia. After retiring in 1985, he divided his time between Tokyo and Honolulu. Seidensticker and the now "People" columnist, 87, were undergraduate classmates at Colorado and staff members of the student newspaper, both graduating in 1942.

In his 1938 satirical novel *Scoop*, **Evelyn Waugh** based William Boot, the hapless garden writer dragooned



Edward G. Seidensticker, 1942

into covering an African colonial war, on his friend **William (Bill) Deedes**, who edited London's *Daily Telegraph* for 12 years and served as a Conservative member of the British Parliament for 24 years. Waugh and Deedes met in 1935 when the *Daily Mail* sent Waugh to Abyssinia, now Ethiopia, to cover Italy's invasion of the African nation. Deedes, then a 22-year-old junior reporter, arrived in Addis Ababa to cover the war.

As to why Waugh based his fictional war correspondent on him, Deedes later said, "What may have inspired him was the fact that the *Morning Post* [absorbed by the *Telegraph* in 1937] saw fit to send me out with a quarter

ton of luggage. Evelyn found that hilarious, and to some extent I suppose I have to admit that my naivety at 22 might have given him the germ of an idea." While in Parliament, Deedes continued writing columns, traveling to some of the world's most hostile regions, writing about famines in Africa and championing unpopular causes.

He served as information minister in the British cabinet from 1962 to 1964, the only editor of a national newspaper to serve in the cabinet. He was made a life peer in 1986. At age 85, he was appointed an ambassador for UNICEF.

On August 3, the *Telegraph* published his column comparing the horrors in Darfur to the Holocaust. On August 17, Lord Deedes, 94, died following a short illness.



Lord William Deedes

Russell J. Hill, 88, a World War II correspondent for the *New York Herald Tribune* and later a correspondent for Radio Free Europe, died of prostrate cancer July 31 at a retirement community in Medford, New Jersey, where he lived.

During 31 years with Radio Free Europe, he was based in Vienna,

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Freedom of the Press Annual Report Delivered by Larry Martz at the August Meeting

In a generally discouraging year for defenders of press freedom, the keynote event was the contract killing last October of Russia's gallant Anna Politkovskaya, whose reporting of the Putin government's abuses in the war in Chechnya had so infuriated Moscow loyalists. Her Artyom Borovik award from the Overseas Press Club in 2001 was only the first of a half-dozen major international awards honoring her courage and indomitable determination to report honestly on the horrors of Chechnya. Only yesterday it was reported that ten people had been arrested for this crime.

But perhaps predictably, what little the Russian prosecutors chose to disclose about the plot seemed to endorse Vladimir Putin's defensive theory only days after Politkovskaya was gunned down in her apartment building: It was done, he said, by people who wanted to discredit his government.

Putin himself sometimes seems to be leading that effort. Abandoning his original vows to bring democracy to Russia and honor human rights and press freedom, he has nearly succeeded in eradicating the independent media and now has all important electronic outlets under government control. Any criticism of the state is branded unpatriotic. The remaining independent newspapers, including Politkovskaya's *Novaya Gazeta* and the feisty *Kommersant*, have few readers and little influence. In most media, self-censorship is the rule.

Anna Politkovskaya was the thirteenth journalist murdered since Putin came to power seven years ago, and no one has been punished for any of those killings. Since our last annual meeting, your committee has written ten letters to Putin protesting individual abuses

and urging him to honor his previous promises.

In all, our letters have gone to 37 governments, many of them more than once. We have written eight letters to Iraq protesting the horrendous toll of deaths and injuries of journalists covering the war, and three more to American officials demanding investigation of apparently targeted shootings of media workers by U.S. and Iraqi forces.

Unfortunately, abuses of press freedom continue around the world. Zimbabwe's descent into chaos is nearly complete, and any reporting there is perilous. Mexico and Venezuela are increasingly dangerous for journalists.

After horrendous abuses in 2005 and 2006, the Philippines have marginally improved. But the story of the coming year will almost surely be China, whose promises of improved media freedom when Beijing was bidding for the 2008 Olympic Games seem increasingly hollow. China's ruthless stifling of any dissent has included the jailings of dozens of Internet bloggers and reporters, and your committee continues to protest them. All of our letters are posted on the OPC Web site as soon as they are sent.

We hope all the members will read them, and we welcome volunteers to help carry on the work. We are hoping to make a significant change in the coming year with the transfer of our legal affiliation from the Club to the OPC Foundation.

This will give us tax-free status and permit us to raise funds from both individual donors and media foundations, and we hope to use the money to increase the impact of our work and contribute more actively to the cause of press freedom.

People Remembered

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Berlin, Munich, Bonn and Washington D.C., retiring in 1983. Hill wrote several books about his wartime experiences, *Desert War* and *Desert Conquest and Struggle for Germany*.



In 1955, CBS and NBC were in a scramble to get the first U.S. television interview with Soviet Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Molotov. The networks spent months extending invitations to the Kremlin, the Soviet embassy in New York and the Soviet office at the U.N. **Beryl Denzer Hines**, an associate producer for CBS's "Face the Nation," went a step further.

She rode a Coast Guard cutter to the passenger liner *Elizabeth* in New York harbor. *Newsweek* reported, "She climbed aboard the *Elizabeth* and spent a sleepless night outside Molotov's stateroom, where she finally got a TASS correspondent to translate a final CBS invitation to Molotov." He gave her the interview.

Hines was a CBS associate producer from 1954 to 1957. She also was a writer and editor for the *Detroit News* and worked at the *Washington Star* and *Washington Post*.

She was born Beryl Shoenfield in Berlin, where her father was a correspondent for the *Detroit News* covering Germany after World War I. Beryl Hines, 84, died July 30 of complication from cancer at a Washington, D.C. nursing home.

— albertkaff@aol.com

ONLINE:

The **OPC blog** has been reintroduced. A blog is a continuous online journal of issues, reflections and Web links from OPC leaders and members. The OPC blog is a great way to stay up-to-date with the latest issues affecting media today and to learn more about events and opportunities from the OPC. If you have an opinion to share or want to generate a discussion, you can respond directly on the site. All you need is an e-mail address.

www.opcofamerica.org/blog

O'Donnell's Photo Claims Bring Scrutiny to His Legacy

by Al Kaff

Within days after photographer **Joe O'Donnell** died in August, reporters around the country questioned whether he made the photos credited to him in the obituary published in *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*.

The O'Donnell obit in the September *OPC Bulletin* was based on *The Times* report. Over several weeks, *Downhold*, the UPI alumni Web site, quoted scores of newsmen who said the photo of John F. Kennedy Jr. saluting his father's casket was made by a UPI photographer, not by O'Donnell as reported in *The Times* and *Post* obituaries.

A number of reporters and photographers also questioned O'Donnell's claim to photographs of the wreckage left by the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki; the World War II meeting of Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill; President Truman shaking hands with General MacArthur on Wake Island during the Korean War; and President Nixon's kitchen debate with Soviet leader Khrushchev.

To illustrate its O'Donnell obituary, *The Times* published the photos of John F. Kennedy Jr.; Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill; and Truman and MacArthur. These photos were credited to O'Donnell in *The Times* and *The Post*. The *OPC Bulletin* published the Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill picture claimed by O'Donnell, but not the photo of John F. Kennedy Jr. saluting his father's casket. From his 33 years with UPI, the "People" columnist knew the John F. Kennedy Jr. photo was taken by a UPI photographer.

The original photo showed several people, and a UPI photo editor in New York cropped the picture to show only John F. Kennedy Jr. That photo became an iconic image of the Kennedy years.

On September 5, *The Times* published this correction: "Two pictures on August 14 with an obituary about the news photographer O'Donnell carried erroneous credits, and the obituary also included one of the incorrect credits. The photograph of a saluting John F. Kennedy Jr. during the funeral

Photographers have come forward to claim their photos. The photo of John F. Kennedy Jr. saluting his father's casket during the memorial service, right, was taken by Stan Stearns of UPI. Elliott Erwitt took the photo of President Nixon poking Nikita Khrushchev, bottom right. The photo of Joe O'Donnell, below, was taken in 1992 in front of a wall that features photos from some of his work.



of his father in 1963 was taken by Stan Stearns for United Press International, not by O'Donnell. The photographer who took the second picture, showing Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill during a wartime meeting in Tehran in 1943, is not known, although O'Donnell claimed credit for it and the Kennedy picture. O'Donnell is not known to have been in Tehran at the time.

"A Nashville gallery that handled O'Donnell's work supplied the incorrect information. *The Times* is researching other claims by O'Donnell reported in the obituary."

Marianne Fulton, a photographer for 30 years and former senior scholar at George Eastman House, investigated the O'Donnell claim and wrote a seven-page report in *The Digital Journalist*, a multi-media magazine on photojournalism.

In her report titled "The Bizarre Story of Joe O'Donnell," Fulton said O'Donnell's name and work in the Nashville gallery, The Arts Company, "have been expunged, although his wife Kimiko Sakai's photographic work seems to be there. When we first checked the site, they were announc-

ing O'Donnell's upcoming retrospective: 'The Arts Company will be presenting a commemorative exhibit of Mr. O'Donnell's presidential and Hiroshima photographs in the early fall'... There are currently no references to that event."

Fulton also wrote: "O'Donnell originally claimed to have taken the photographs of FDR, Winston Churchill and Josef Stalin at the 'Yalta' conference. The first mistake was that the picture was made at the Teheran conference earlier."

O'Donnell's son, Tyge O'Donnell, 37, now a bellman at Caesar's Palace, said his father may have confused the origin of the John F. Kennedy Jr. picture late in life because of declining health, which his father blamed on radiation poisoning from his visits to Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

But Fulton concluded, "He took credit for others' photographs in writing and during interviews. This was not a mistake of memory; it was intentional. *The New York Times*, *The Tennessean*, *American Photo*, *The Boston Globe*, and many other press organizations bought it hook, line and sinker."

New Books:

(Continued From Page 12)

uments showing *Time* reporter **Matthew Cooper** discussed Valerie Wilson, an undercover CIA operative, with White House aide Karl Rove. Pearlstine complied with the court order after the Supreme Court turned down *Time*'s last appeal. Pearlstine, who has a law degree but never practiced, writes, "One of America's most ferocious defenders of the First Amendment, Floyd Abrams, gave us less good advice than we deserved. The more I reviewed Abrams's work, the more I was disappointed with his performance." Pearlstine replaced Abrams with Theodore B. Olson as the case approached the Supreme Court. In a *New York Times* article, **Adam Liptak** quotes Abrams: "But easy or hard, his [Pearlstine's Cooper] decision was at odds with 200 years of American journalistic history."

WHEN THEY WERE GROWING UP, the Couric children were expected to appear each evening at the dinner table with a new word that they had learned that day." That's how **Edward Klein** introduces **Katie Couric** in *KATIE The Real Story* [New York: Crown Publishers]. Katie's two older sisters dominated the dinner discussions, graduated from Smith College and one earned a master's degree from Harvard.

Katie "could never hope to match Emily and Kiki in knowledge or maturity," Klein writes. "But as the baby in the family, she could attract attention by being clever, playful, and mischievous." Katie applied to Smith, but she lacked the grades to be admitted and attended her father's alma mater, the University of Virginia.

After World War II service in the U.S. Navy, her father, **John Couric**, was a reporter for the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* and United Press before moving into public relations to earn more money. Couric was fascinated by journalism, and her father urged her to

go into television rather than print. Why? "Money," he replied. He urged his daughter to set her goals on **Walter Cronkite's CBS Evening News's** anchor slot and *60 Minutes*.

Klein writes in detail about Couric's career as a CNN Pentagon correspondent and co-anchor with **Bryant Gumbel** of NBC's *The Today Show* until she finally achieved the goals her father set for her: anchoring the *CBS Evening News* and a *60 Minutes* correspondent. But with Couric, *CBS Evening News* trailed far behind the other networks.

Klein concludes, "She had spent a lifetime striving to fulfill her father's dream for her – that she sit in the chair once occupied by the great Walter Cronkite... At heart, Couric was not an anchor – sober, authoritative, and wise. She had reached the heights of TV stardom by being what she had been in her father's house – cute, funny and girlish."

But Klein writes that her bosses at *The Today Show* viewed her in a positive light, "Katie could do it all – hard and soft, tough and tender, somber and silly – and she could do it with a panache that was unmatched by any other television personality." Klein is a former correspondent in Tokyo, *Newsweek* foreign editor and editor-in-chief of *The New York Times Magazine*, and author of several books.

Several days after *Katie* was published, Couric broadcast for three days from Iraq and interviewed President Bush during his surprise visit to that country. It was the first anniversary of Katie's debut as an anchor. "Ms. Couric handled it [Iraq reporting] with aplomb, mixing sober interviews with soldiers and political leaders with brief glimpses of everyday life in Iraq," **Alessandra Stanley**, *The New York Times* TV critic, wrote.

Richard Huff, *New York Daily News* TV critic, wrote, "She's not the first anchor to go to the country, but that doesn't matter. She did it and did it well. And that's what counts." But

Couric's *CBS Evening News* fell to a new low during the week she reported from Iraq and Syria. Her newscast drew an average of 5.46 million viewers that week.

ABC's *World News* led with 7.81 million viewers followed by NBC's *Nightly News* with 7.78 million viewers, Nielsen Media Research reported.

CBS News president **Sean McManus** told the *New York Daily News*, "Going to Iraq never generates good numbers. In fact, it's quite the opposite; there's fatigue from Iraq. [But] it's the most important story we're covering right now."

SCIENCE

WANT TO SOLVE A CRIME? Then *Science 101 Forensics* [New York: HarperCollins, Washington: Smithsonian] is the book for you.

Written by OPC member **Edward Ricciuti**, the book takes the reader into the world of investigators and scientists who work to solve crimes through the use of forensic science.

The author writes, "The scene at which a crime has been committed can be as immense as the burning towers of the World Trade Center or as small as a just-robbled mom-and-pop grocery store."

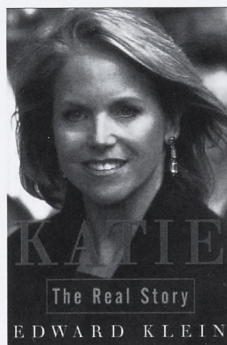
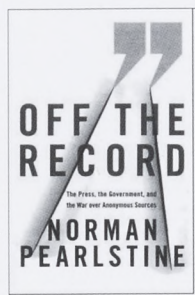
Lavishly illustrated with more than 250 color photographs, the book is written for the layman and describes the many things that forensic experts examine to solve a crime including blood, bones, DNA, dental marks, pollen, insects and soil.

The author describes the autopsy in detail (while warning "an autopsy may not be pretty for the average person to visualize"), serial killers, arsonists, poisoners and just about every crime known to man including the probable murder of King Tut.

Ricciuti traces forensics back to its beginning: "China can be considered the wellspring from which forensic science as a system eventually flowed. A Chinese physician, Wu Pu, supposedly settled legal cases by medical testimony in the third century.

In the thirteenth century, Chinese physician and judge Song Ci wrote *Xi Yuan Ji Lu*, the classic book still studied and cited by forensic experts today."

— by Al Kaff



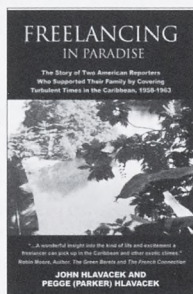
New Books

CARIBBEAN

THIS SUMMER A BOOK REVIEWER described foreign correspondents John and Pegge Hlavacek as being "like a fabulous couple from some old Hollywood movie." In 1939 just out of college, John sailed to China to teach English at middle schools in Shansi and Szechwan provinces for two years and then drove Red Cross trucks to deliver medical supplies to foreign mission hospitals. After Pearl Harbor, he joined the U.S. military attaché's office in Chungking.

In 1944, he became a United Press war correspondent in China. When the war ended, John reported for UP during many years in India.

After working as a reporter for the *Washington Times Herald* and the *Fairbanks News Miner*, Pegge went to China, where she met and married CIA undercover agent Douglas Mackiernan and gave birth to twins. When the com-



John and Pegge Hlavacek

munists won the China civil war in 1949, Pegge and the children were evacuated. Doug stayed behind to close his station and was killed by border guards near Tibet. Pegge later was appointed vice consul at the U.S. embassy in Pakistan, where she met and married John. They spent their early married years in India, and became parents of three more children. After India, John accepted a one-year fellowship at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York and then the couple moved to Jamaica as print, radio and TV freelancers covering the Caribbean. They relate their adventures in *Freelancing In Paradise: The Story of Two American Reporters Who Supported Their Family by Covering Turbulent Times in the Caribbean, 1958-1963* [New York: iUniverse]. Last year, John, 89, published *United Press Invades India: Memoirs of a Foreign Correspondent, 1944-1952* [Lincoln, Nebraska: iUniverse].

EUROPE

SOON AFTER THE COLLAPSE of the Soviet Union, Georgia fell prey to power struggles, crime and corruption, secessionist wars and the spillover of war in Chechnya.. **Thomas Goltz**, a former OPC member, traces these developments in *Georgia Diary: A Chronicle of War and Political Chaos in the Post-Soviet Caucasus* [Armonk, New York: M. E. Sharpe]. The book features portraits of people in high places and low and describes events in Georgia, the key-to-the Caucasus region, from 1992 through the resignations of Eduard Shevardnadze, the "Rose Revolution" and the rise of Mikheil Saakashvili. The author is an adjunct professor at the University of Montana teaching on post-Soviet Caucasus. During 20 years as a journalist, he has written news dispatches, features and op-ed articles for *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Washington Post*.

NORTH AMERICA

TIME'S LEGAL BATTLE IN THE CIA disclosure case is reviewed by **Norman Pearlstine** in *Off the Record: The Press, the Government, and the War Over Anonymous Sources* [New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux]. Pearlstine, an OPC member, was editor-in-chief of Time Inc. when a court ordered the magazine to turn over doc-

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Coming Up...

OPC Book Night
"Escaping Plato's Cave"
Mort Rosenblum
Wednesday, October 10
Reception at 5:30 p.m.
Talk at 6:30 p.m.
Club Quarters
40 West 45 Street

Overseas Press Club of America
40 West 45 Street
New York, NY 10036 USA